



**Office of Dispute Resolution
Nebraska State Court Administrator's Office
State Capitol, Lincoln, NE 68509**

Victim Youth Conferencing Logic Model

NAME OF PROGRAM/PROJECT:

Nebraska Supreme Court's Statewide Victim Youth Conferencing (VYC) Enhancement Initiative

SITUATION:

Too many youth ineffectively engage with the formal justice system without an opportunity to be accountable for repairing harm and restoring relationships. Victims of youth crimes lack access to a restorative justice process to confront the offender and to be made whole. There's a sense of dissatisfaction with the juvenile justice system by the youth, families, victims, and the public. Victim Youth Conferencing is an evidence-based practice that has shown promising results to improve these conditions in Nebraska through the VYC pilot project.

VISION:

Our vision is for youth to succeed, residents to be empowered and communities to be safe for everyone. This vision will be realized when we expand community-based problem solving, reduce harm, build and bridge community relationships, and successfully re-integrate youth, who have been court-involved, back into community life.

GUIDING VALUES:

Inclusivity, Collaboration, Empowerment, Collective Community-based Problem Solving, Safety, Repairing Harm, Restoration, Responsiveness, Leadership, Sustainability, Relationships, Positive Change, and Accountability.

PRIORITIES:

The Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR) and its project partners plan to integrate Victim Youth Conferencing (VYC) in all six mediation center regions across Nebraska as a primary restorative justice intervention to reduce youth involvement in the justice system.

INPUTS	OUTPUTS		OUTCOMES		
	Activities	Participants	Short-term	Intermediate-term	Long-term
<u>People: highly qualified</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODR Director and RJ Specialist (to hire) • 6 Mediation Center Directors • Qualified VYC facilitators, surrogates, & externs • 6 regional RJ Coordinators (to hire) • Minimal support staff <u>Funds</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODR fees for cases • Probation fees for cases • In-kind discretionary • Court fees for cases • Crime Commission • Local county funds • Grant funding • Nominal donations/ other funds <u>Infrastructure</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Mediation Center offices w/accessible VYC rooms • Case Manager database system • Tracking of recidivism • Permission to access sealed records • Protocols developed • Referral process • Growing collaborations with stakeholders in 12 court districts 	<u>Victim Youth Conferencing</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VYC staff will conduct referral meetings with stakeholders • Establish agreements for referral protocol • Contact youth, parents, and victims for VYC preparation meetings • Hold VYC's • Follow up to ensure accountability steps are met. <u>VYC Training</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit trainees to attend VYC training. Target recruitment to diverse groups. • Work with consultants to finalize the NE VYC training manual; develop train-the-trainers manual • Educate key stakeholders on site, at events and conferences on VYC & RJ 	<u>Victim Youth Conferencing</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 187 youth who committed an offense year 1, 256 youth yr 2, and 324 youth yr 3 = 767 youth • 187 parents year 1, 256 parents yr 2, & 324 parents yr 3 = 767 parents • 280 victims year 1, 384 victims yr 2, & 486 victims yr 3 = 1,150 victims <p>2,684 Participants</p> <u>VYC Training</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 adults each year interested in VYC facilitation • 24 adults each year interested in serving as victim surrogates • 6-12 advanced facilitators to become regional trainers of VYC • 24 judges, probation officers, mediators, victim advocates, juvenile defense attorneys, county attorneys and diversion, police and school officials educated annually 	<u>Victim Youth Conferencing</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95% of VYC's will result in a reparations agreement • 95% of reparations agreements will be fulfilled • 97% of youth, their parents, victims and surrogates will report satisfaction with VYC • 82% of youth will not recidivate within 1 year of VYC <u>VYC Training</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each of six regional mediation centers will have a minimum of 4 qualified VYC facilitators and 4 surrogates each yr • 90% of regional advanced trainers are confident in their ability to conduct restorative justice and VYC training • 90% of stakeholders attending educational sessions are more aware of and committed to using VYC in their region 	<u>Victim Youth Conferencing</u> <p>Outcome standards will consistently be maintained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95% of VYC's will result in reparations • 95% of reparations agreements will be fulfilled • 97% of youth, their parents, victims and surrogates will report satisfaction with VYC • 82% of youth will not recidivate within 1 year of VYC. <u>VYC Training</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each of six regions has an ongoing, qualified pool of VYC facilitators and victim surrogates • Facilitators and surrogates will reflect the ethnic diversity of each region by the end of year 3 • Each of six regions will have ongoing capacity to conduct restorative justice and VYC training as needed for stakeholders and communities 	<p>A reduced number of youth are involved with juvenile courts</p> <p>A reduced number of court involved youth who have caused harm re-offend</p> <p>The disproportionate minority contact gap within the justice system and schools (using restorative services) is closed</p> <p>Community safety is improved as a result of reduced recidivism and changed behavior</p> <p>Nebraska has expanded community-based problem solving capacity to repair harm, restore relationships and hold youth accountable in community, so they can be successful</p> <p>Capacity for ongoing training and education is sustained and accessible throughout Nebraska</p> <p>State courts, county attorneys, diversion, probation, ODR, regional mediation centers and participating schools align VYC and restorative services in their policies and operations</p> <p>VYC receives an ongoing appropriation from the legislature in the Judicial Branch budget.</p>

INPUTS	OUTPUTS		OUTCOMES		
	Activities	Participants	Short-term	Intermediate-term	Long-term
<p><i>Continued from the previous page:</i></p> <p><u>Organizational Capacity Building</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants for protocol development, training, case coaching & evaluation • Sustainability assessment resources with 8 domains from Washington University • 2017 – 2020 VYC long range planning goals for each of 6 regional mediation centers and ODR • Network of expanded restorative justice and VYC expert relationships across the 12 judicial districts and with other states 	<p><u>Organizational Capacity Building</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit and hire ODR restorative justice specialist and six mediation center VYC coordinators • Build VYC partnerships with key justice system & school stakeholders • Convene ongoing policy and protocol development meetings • Develop and implement a VYC communications plan statewide • Engage justice system in providing public endorsements • Develop and implement a VYC long range sustainability plan statewide and within the six mediation centers' local counties and regional areas. 	<p><u>Organizational Capacity Building</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODR Director and staff, State Court Administrator, State Probation Administrator, and six regional mediation centers directors, staff, and affiliates • At least six key justice system & school stakeholders identified and engaged in each of 6 regions to increase use of VYC. • 18 juvenile and county judges are engaged in referring youth to VYC 	<p><u>Organizational Capacity Building</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODR and six regional mediation centers have hired or contracted for a restorative justice coordinator • ODR and regional mediation centers recommend policies to their governing bodies for long term commitment to VYC and restorative services • 85% of VYC's held within 60 days of referral • Referrals received meet or exceed projections. • Appropriate VYC conference space is regularly accessible • Media articles, newsletters, and websites promote VYC • Return on Investment in VYC is documented and communicated to stakeholders • ODR and six regional mediation centers each secure at least one new source of funding for VYC 	<p><u>Organizational Capacity Building</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ODR and 6 regional mediation centers each have a skilled FTE restorative justice coordinator they can sustain by year 3. • State, ODR and mediation center operational policies reflect long term commitment to VYC and restorative services. • 90% of VYC's held within 60 days of referral by end of year 3. • Referrals received continue to meet or exceed projections. • Appropriate VYC conference space is accessible and sustainable. • Communications result in growing support for VYC statewide. • VYC receives an appropriation from the legislature in the Judicial Branch budget. 	<p><i>Continued from the previous page:</i></p> <p>ODR and each mediation center sustains a balanced and diversified funding base for VYC with a combination of regional as well as state public resources, court fees, and private foundation funds</p> <p>ODR, regional mediation centers, and VYC partners have the capacity for ongoing evaluation and data analysis that informs future services</p>

ASSUMPTIONS	EXTERNAL FACTORS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengths of the Administrative Office of Courts, ODR and six mediation centers include skilled leadership, a solid and stable infrastructure on which to build, and long term relationships with justice system stakeholders. 2. The Administrative Office of Courts, ODR and six mediation centers are all committed to implementing VYC as an evidence-based alternative for youth. 3. Systems change takes slow and steady progress. 4. Documenting and communicating the return on investment is important to all stakeholders. 5. High satisfaction with VYC of youth, parents, victims and community members is a strength on which to build. 6. Projected return-on-investment promises a savings for judicial system and schools because of reduced recidivism by youth. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Current trends in juvenile justice and educational systems provide opportunities for restorative services and VYC as a means to reduce youth involvement in the system. 2. Shrinking State revenue/budget may be a threat to VYC being implemented statewide, which could have a ripple effect with other funders. 3. Buy-in from referral sources, including judges, probation, county attorneys, schools and police, is key to successful implementation. 4. Competition among programs and service providers can result in fragmented resources, which threaten impact. 5. Community and stakeholder perception of restorative services as a soft approach may be a challenge to address through a strong communications plan.
EVALUATION PLAN:	
<i>Provided as a separate document.</i>	